

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 /074 W  
-----085302 150923Z /14

R 131457Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5596  
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION USBERLIN  
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 07247

E.O.11652; GDS  
TAGS; PGOV, GE, FI  
SUBJECT; PRESIDENT KEKKONEN VISITS GDR

1. SUMMARY: FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN VISITED GDR  
SEPTEMBER 6-9. NO SIGNIFICANT NEW AGREEMENTS WERE  
CONCLUDED AND WE DETECT NO MAJOR DEPARTURES IN GDR  
FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS. FROM GDR POINT OF VIEW TRIP  
CAN BE COUNTED AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL IF NOT  
SUBSTANTIVE STEP AS KEKKONEN VISIT WAS FIRST STATE VISIT  
FROM A NON-SOCIALIST COUNTRY AND THUS HELPS THE GDR  
STRENGTHEN ITS POSITION AS A MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. GDR ACKNOWLEDGED FINLAND'S POLICY  
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OF NEUTRALITY AS A CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.  
HONECKER ACCEPTED KEKKONEN'S INVITATION TO VISIT  
FINLAND. END SUMMARY.

2. FINNISH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN, ACCOMPANIED  
BY FONMIN PAAVO VAYRYNEN AND OTHERS, MADE A STATE  
VISIT TO GDR SEPTEMBER 6 TO 9 AS GUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN

OF THE GDR COUNCIL OF STATE (AND SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE GENERAL SECRETARY) HONECKER. MUCH OF THE TIME OF THE VISIT WAS FILLED WITH CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES.

3. GDR MEDIA MADE MUCH OF THE VISIT, DEVOTING EXTENSIVE SPACE TO ALL ASPECTS OF IT. EDITION OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF 7 SEPTEMBER, FOR EXAMPLE, DEVOTED ALMOST THREE FULL PAGES TO VISIT. NEWS COVERAGE, HOWEVER, WAS ALMOST TOTALLY DEVOID OF INFORMATION EXCEPT FOR CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF VISIT.

4. MAIN THEMES IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND IN EDITORIAL AND PRESS COVERAGE WERE GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS AS AN EXAMPLE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN NATIONS WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT FOR LASTING PEACE, DETENTE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE. HONECKER DESCRIBED KEKKONEN VISIT AS A NEW HIGH POINT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. AT A STATE DINNER ON THE EVENING OF 6 SEPTEMBER, KEKKONEN EMPHASIZED FINLAND'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY. HE SAID FINNISH RELATIONS WITH THE TWO GERMANIES WERE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE IDENTICAL AND HE CHARACTERIZED BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GDR AND FINLAND AS FRUITFUL AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS. HONECKER, IN HIS REMARKS ON THE SAME OCCASION, STRESSED THE GDR'S CLOSE RELATIONS  
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WITH THE USSR AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AS WELL AS FRIENDLY COOPERATION WITH STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

6. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT A JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED (WE ASSUME FBIS CARRYING FULL TEXT) WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE DISCUSSIONS AS BEING CARRIED OUT IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. COMMUNIQUE DEALS WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS INCLUDING BILATERAL RELATIONS. DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMY AND TRADE, CSCE, DISARMAMENT, MIDDLE EAST, AND AFRICA. THE COMMUNIQUE SITES THE STATEMENT BY HONECKER THAT FINLAND'S FREEDOM LOVING POLICY OF NEUTRALITY CONTRIBUTES TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS. COMMUNIQUE THEN ADDS THAT HONECKER, IN THIS CONNECTION, EMPHASIZED KEKKONEN'S PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FINNISH FOREIGN POLICY WHICH INCLUDES AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES, IN PARTICULAR THE SOVIET UNION AS WELL AS ITS NORTHERN NEIGHBORS.

7. FINNISH AMBASSADOR OSMO KOCH TOLD AMBASSADOR BOLEN THAT FINNISH SIDE IS SATISFIED WITH VISIT AND THAT HE EXPECTS ADDITIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS TO RESULT. HE SAID THAT THIS MARKS THE FIRST TIME THAT AN EASTERN EUROPEAN NATION HAS EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED FINNISH NEUTRALITY. KOCH ADDED THAT FINNS ARE CURRENTLY VERY ACTIVE IN THE GDR WITH A TECHNICAL EXHIBIT BEING OPENED AND WITH THE VISIT OF THE MAYOR OF HELSINKI TO EAST BERLIN. AMB. KOCH TOLD AMB. BOLEN THAT A FINNISH STATE SECRETARY WOULD BE IN EAST BERLIN LATER THIS WEEK FOR NEGOTIATIONS ON WORLD WAR II FINNISH CLAIMS. INCLUDING

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 07247

REPARATIONS AND CLAIMS FOR FINNISH PROPERTY IN GERMANY.

8. COMMENT; FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE GDR LEADERSHIP THE TRIP WAS PROBABLY A SUCCESS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TRIP FROM EAST BERLIN PERSPECTIVE LIES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN THE FACT THAT IT TOOK PLACE AT ALL. KEKKONEN IS THE FIRST NON-SOCIALIST CHIEF OF STATE TO VISIT THE GDR AND HIS VISIT REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME TO LEGITIMIZE

ITSELF IN THE EYES OF ITS OWN POPULATION. THIS IS  
A MAJOR POLICY OBJECTIVE FOR THE GDR. REFERENCE IN THE  
COMMUNIQUE TO BERLIN AS THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR AND THE  
TOUR OF CITY GUIDED BY EAST BERLIN MAYOR PROVIDED GDR  
FURTHER OPPORTUNITY TO REINFORCE ITS POSITION ON BERLIN  
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ISSUE. THE VISIT WENT SMOOTHLY AND WAS APPARENTLY  
WELL MANAGED. THE TRIP NOW PAVES THE WAY FOR FURTHER  
HEADS OF STATE/HEADS OF GOVERNMENT VISITS. WE  
HAVE HEARD FROM EAST EUROPEAN SOURCES HERE THAT NEXT  
VISITOR MAY BE AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY.  
END COMMENT. BOLEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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